



## NEWS RELEASE

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
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### **Kickoff Event Planned for Santa Barbara's Largest Solar Energy Project**

**SANTA BARBARA, CA – September 9, 2008**

The City of Santa Barbara will start construction on Santa Barbara's largest solar photovoltaic installation at an event at the **City Parks Yard (620 Laguna Street) on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.** Mayor Marty Blum, Public Works Director Christine Andersen, and representatives from Tioga Energy and EI Solutions will speak about the innovative renewable energy project. They will be joined by City Councilmembers, staff, and community leaders who support the City's achievements in renewable energy. Attendees will be able to view the rooftops and learn how the solar project will supply over half the energy demand of the Public Works and Community Development Department Offices.

The City of Santa Barbara partnered with Tioga Energy and EI Solutions to plan Santa Barbara's largest solar energy project. EI Solutions designed and will construct the system using Suntech solar panels. Tioga Energy will finance, own and operate the solar energy system for the City under the terms of a Power Purchase Agreement.

As part of the Sustainable Santa Barbara Program, the City is taking many steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout its facilities and vehicle fleet. Approximately 23% of the City's total electrical energy use is derived from renewable energy. A fuel cell generator at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant transforms methane gas to electrical energy on a daily basis. Energy conservation is also a top priority.

To learn more information about the City of Santa Barbara's efforts to prevent climate change and become more sustainable, check out the new 2008 Annual Sustainable Santa Barbara Report on the City's website at [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).